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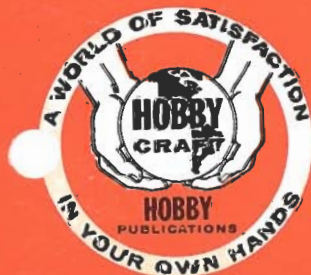
JANUARY
1978

Annual HIA Trade Show Edition

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Command Study



By Rick Mataka, *Special Projects Editor*

AS you should see from last month's editorial, there may be many products that were mentioned that you already stock. We will continue on this subject, outlining other items that the Military Miniaturist may use in the pursuit of his hobby.

Before any miniature can be painted, it must first be cleaned. Most Military Miniatures when they arrive, contain what is known as a "flash" residue along its edges. This is a result of the molding as some of the hot metal found its way out of the mold before the figure was removed. It is a simple process to get rid of the flash that some figures come with if the miniaturist has the proper tools.

The essential modelling tools that are needed consist of various files, needle nose pliers, craft knives with assorted blades, cutters, tweezers, and clamp tweezers. With just these few items you are set to begin.

But that is not all the tools used in the pursuit of this hobby. From this basic set you will eventually add different and varied tools as your expertise grows.

To give you some idea of what the basic tool set is used for, here is an example of what a miniaturist might do once he has bought a figure. The first step is to clean off all of the flash that might be around the edges. For this job, he will use different size files and the craft knives and file away or scrape the excess metal from the figures surface. If the figure has gotten bent in some manner, he will straighten it out with the use of the needle nose pliers. If there are large clumps of excess metal around some of the pieces he will use the cutters to cut it away. If it is a multi-piece casting he will do the same for all of the pieces, making sure that all of them are clean. Once all of this is done, he

can then proceed to assemble the casting if it needs it.

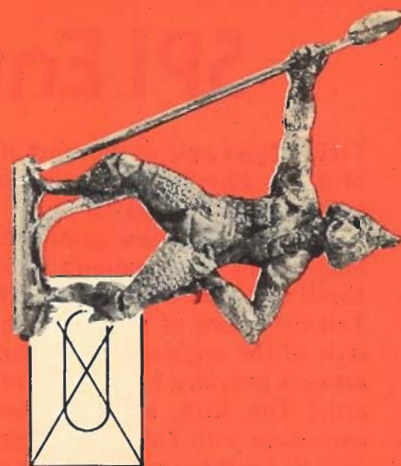
Just how much of the figure is going to be assembled at this time depends on the casting itself and the amount of painting detail that must be put into it. By this I mean if there is an accessory that covers up some other part of the figure it will be added on later after all painting is completed. This is the area where the tweezers come in handy for the assembly of the small pieces. They are also useful when it comes to the priming and painting of the figure as it can be held with the clamp tweezers. (Priming is the base undercoat as described last month.)

Additional tools that the miniaturist could add vary greatly—it really depends on his expertise in the military miniature field. If he is going to attempt conversions of figures he will need many knives with assorted blades. He will also need putty of some kind as a filler for detail that he might want to block out. If he has a high degree of proficiency, the use of cloth to clothe the figure might be the final step. This is done more on the large scale figures than the wargaming figures.

For the most part, I have used the PO and X-ACTO knives and have had a great deal of success with both of them. This is not to say that any of the other craft knives available would not do the job equally well. The same holds true for all of the other tools used for the metal castings. X-ACTO has a large number of tools that the hobbyist can use. But any tool that serves the purpose will be bought and used by the miniaturist.

Another item that is used to a large degree by both the collectors and wargaming hobbyists are

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 185)



**WARGAMING · BOARDGAMING
& MILITARY MINIATURES**

SPI Enters The Middle Earth

THE fantasy epic of the land of the Middle Earth that enchanted millions of readers is now the foundation for a new game trilogy. Simulations Publication's *Middle Earth* recreates the saga of J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings in the style of the original. With extensive artwork provided by famous Tolkien artist Tim Kirk, and published in agreement with Tolkien Enterprises, *Middle Earth* has emerged after more than a year and a half of intensive design and development as an easy-to-learn, fast-paced adventure in gaming.

Middle Earth is actually three games in one, and the heart of the SPI trilogy is *War of the Ring*. Covering the main action of the novel from the formation of the Fellowship to the destruction of the Ring, *War of the Ring* features each and every character who plays — or could play — a significant role in the struggle of the Free Peoples against the Dark Lord. The game includes some 400

playing pieces to represent these characters and the armies and bands of men, ogres, elves, trolls, and other creatures who inhabit this enchanted world. The 33" x 34" map portrays, in detail, all of Middle Earth, from the Northern Wastes to the deserts of Far Harad. Central to the entire concept of *War of the Ring* are the 112 player cards, which not only define the capabilities and motives of each character, but which represent such items as elvish rope, legendary weapons, and magical devices that are essential to the story's re-enactment. *War of the Ring* has a suggested retail price of \$15.00.

Gondor: The Siege of Minas Tirith, one of the two battle games in Middle Earth, depicts the crucial assault by Mordor on the final bastion of the West. The 17" x 22" map features the fortress-city of Minas Tirith and the surrounding Pelennor Fields. The 200 playing

pieces represent the contending armies as well as the individual characters of such pivotal figures as the Lord of the Nazgul, Aragorn, and Gandalf the White. *Gondor* sells separately for \$5.00.

The third game of the trilogy, *Sauron: The Battle for the Ring*, delves deeply into Tolkien lore to portray the great struggle before the gates of Mordor that brought an end to the Second Age. Represented by 100 playing pieces, the legendary Elvish armies of Elendil and Gil-Galad engage the mighty host of the then-wizard Sauron on a 17" x 22" map. *Sauron* is sold separately for \$5.00.

All of the games are professionally produced with color maps, rules, and die cut counters. The Middle Earth game is packaged in a plastic box and the Battle games are packaged in the popular folio series. The complete Middle Earth — all three games — retails for \$20. ■



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Shown is the complete set of Middle Earth games — War of the Ring, The Siege of Minas Tirith, and The Battle For the Ring.

Why is this company so successful?

The Avalon Hill Game Company has suddenly emerged as the giant in the wargame industry, and people are now asking "how come?"

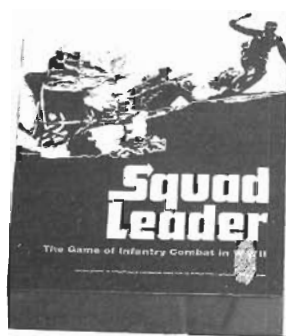
"A steady stream of fresh, new original games" is one reason!

New Games for the Hobby Show

Avalon Hill plans to unveil four new battle games for their Spring '78 line: *Squad Leader*, *Submarine*, *Napoleon*, and *Assault on Crete*.

Squad Leader seems destined for instant stardom. Glowing reports abound from customers who purchased the pre-publication mail-order-only version released last Fall. Likewise for *Submarine*, a game we've picked up from a very fine "third-world" game publisher. Similarly, *Napoleon* comes to us with the finest credentials for playability of any napoleonic game yet designed. *Assault on Crete* was supposed to have been available last summer. But it required extra time for

development. It comes to the trade now in custom-honed perfection. Playtesters say the wait is worth it.



Which brings us to another reason for this company's success: **value!** For the most part Avalon Hill spends more development time per game than anyone else. Sometimes too much, at the chagrin of disappointed customers who don't see our new games available when announced. But if a game develops flaws we simply fool with it until it's right.

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From the Fantasy range of Superior Models in the 90mm scale cast in tin/lead. This is #5 and is a figure from Norse Mythology of **Odin, the Viking god**. Some assembly is required. Coulter-Bennett Ltd., Dept. CM, 12158 Hamlin St., North Hollywood, CA 91606. See ad page 170.

W.R.W. IMPORTS

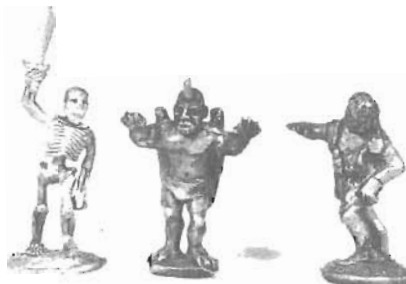


From the Roskopf range in the 1/90th scale cast in plastic. This is #58 and is a casting of a **World War II Panzer IV German tank**. It is a single piece casting that requires no assembly. One to package. \$1.20 retail.

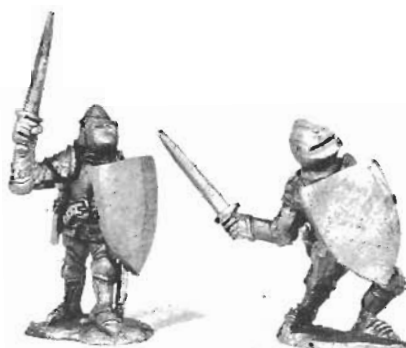


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Recovery Vehicle. It is cast in 2 pieces and assembles easily. Packaged in a bubble pack with only 1 to a pack. \$1.00 retail. GHQ Micro Armour, Dept. CM, 2634 Bryant Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408. See ad page 176.

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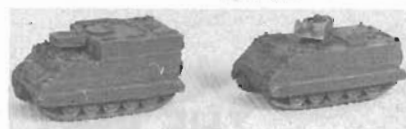


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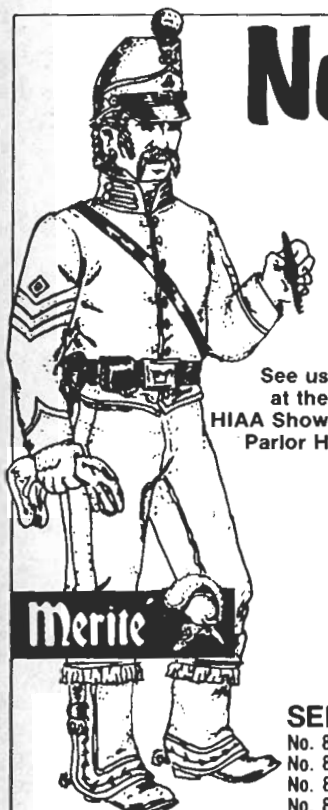


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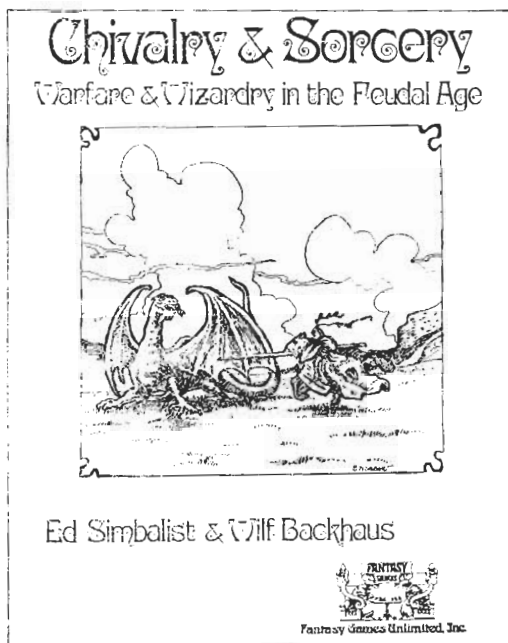


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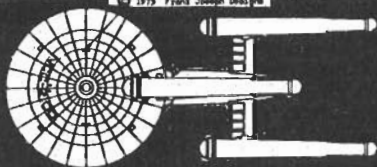
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MONARCH MINIATURES



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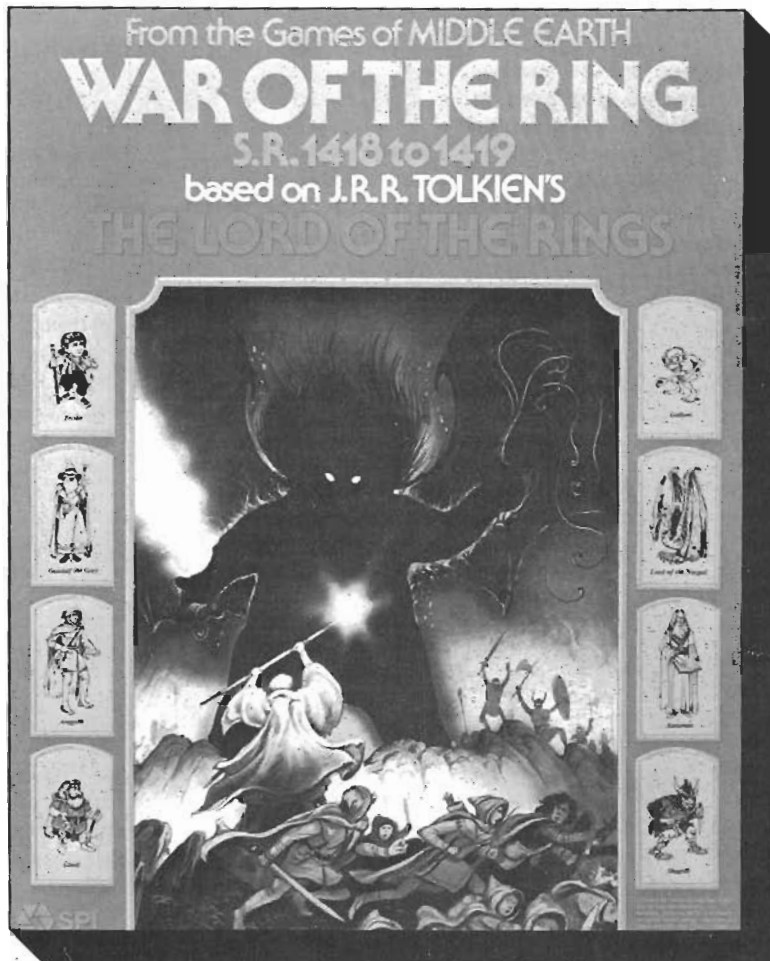
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EXCALIBRE GAMES



Sidi Rezegh is an historical boardgame of the British "Crusader" Operation in North Africa that took place in 1941. It is a simple type of game that can be played quickly and is excellent for beginners. Packaged in a zip lock bag with rules, charts, die cut counters, map, retails \$6.00. Excalibre Games, Dept. CM, 1121 67th Ave. North, Apt. 104, Brooklyn Center, MI 55430.

ZOCCHI ASSOCIATES



Tatchanka is a boardgame simulation of the fighting that took place in the Ukraine after WWI. It is an intermediate level game that should be recommended to those familiar with boardgaming. Packaged in a zip lock bag with map, rules and die cut counters. \$6.00 retail.



War of the Star Slavers is a Science Fiction boardgame simulation of tactical intergalactic conflict in the far future. Game pits commercially oriented Empires against Slave Raiders as they pirate the commercial trading lanes. For the intermediate boardgamer who is familiar with the hobby. Packaged in zip lock bag with die cut counters, rules, and map. \$13 retail.



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Dien Bien Phu is a boardgame simulation of the War in Indochina from 1950 to 1955. Game is on the strategic level and simulates the situation when France lost her colonial possession of Indochina. Game is professionally produced with die cut counters, rules, map and is packaged in zip lock bag. \$3.25 retail. Flying Buffalo, Dept. CM, Box 1467, Scottsdale, AZ 85252.

METAGAMING



Warp War is a Science Fiction boardgame of tactical spaceship combat in the future. In this game, players build their own ships within certain specifications. There are 3 levels of play that take you from beginner to advanced. It is a simple game that is excellent for beginners. Packaged in a zip lock bag with map, die cut counters, color front on rule book. \$2.95 retail. Metagaming, Dept. CM, Box 15346, Austin, TX 78761.

ships and raise havoc on the seas. Game is fairly simple in concept, with the challenge coming in its play. Can be recommended for beginners. Players must cut out event cards and ship cards from stiff cardboard sheets. Packaged in a zip lock bag. \$7.00 retail. Zocchi Associates, Dept. CM, 7604 Newton Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532. See ad page 176.

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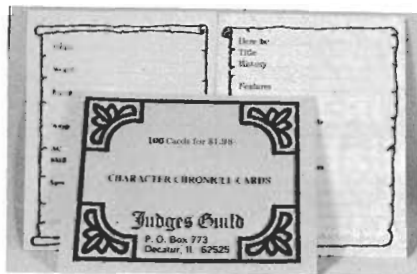
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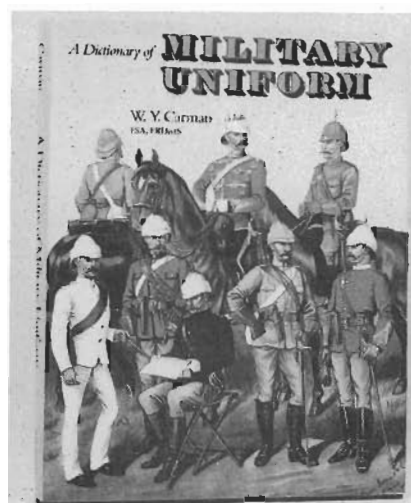


Warriors of the Green Planet is the final game in the Trilogy of games of the Green Planet series. Game covers the land aspect of warfare in this future world with some interesting results. For additional complexity there are special rules that allow this game to be joined with its companion games for the ultimate in tactical wargaming. Game comes with die cut counters, rules, and map. \$6 retail. Louis Zocchi, Dept. CM, 7604R Newton Dr., Biloxi, Miss. 39532.



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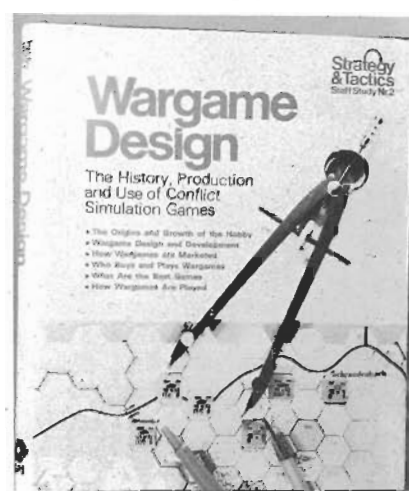
SCRIBNERS



A Dictionary of Military Uniforms is a highly detailed book devoted to the various items of apparel worn on uniforms through the ages. Readers can easily find definitions for any item and in many instances there are photographs of that item. Highly illustrated and extremely informative; it is an excellent reference book. \$12.50 retail. Charles Scribner's Sons, Dept. CM, 597 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

mation needed for a long termed campaign game. You receive maps, rules and all information needed for this type game. The Character Chronicle Cards are aids for gamers in keeping track of character attributes during the fantasy game. They aid in record keeping and add order to a game. Lou Zocchi Associates, Dept. CM, 7604T Newton Drive, Biloxi, MS 39532. **See ad page 176.**

HIPPOCRENE BOOKS



Wargame Design is a book that traces the history, development and production of boardgames. Authored mainly by the staff of Simulations Publications, it explains the reasoning of why things are done in a specific way in a game. An excellent reference work for the would be designer of boardgames. Or good reading to gain a better understanding of boardgames. Hippocrene Books Inc., Dept. CM, 171 Madison Ave., N.Y., NY 10016.

INTER'L WARGAME ASSOC.

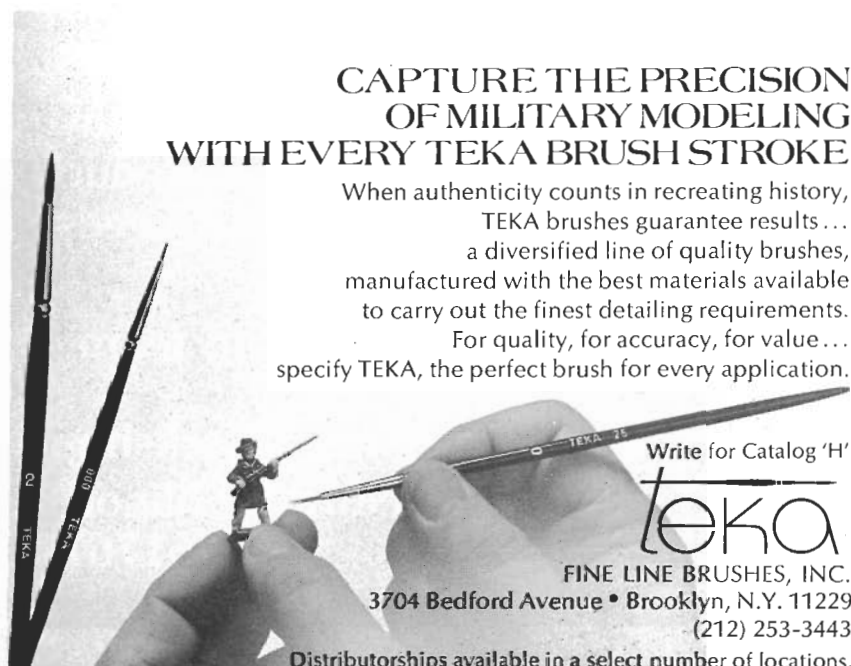


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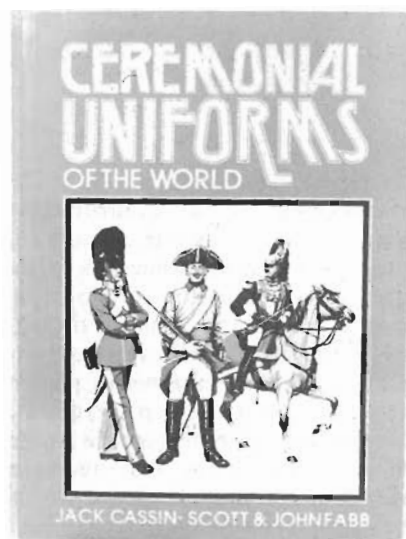
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The First Fantasy Campaign is a booklet that is a playing aid for fantasy gamers who want a never ending game. Within it you are given detailed descriptions of an entire fantasy world that players now have at their disposal. Also included are two maps of this world so players can chart their movement. To this information, they can add any of their own ideas and form an ever changing fantasy world for their game. \$8.00 retail.



Once Upon A Table is a set of rules

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Star War 2250 is a Science Fiction game that can be played with the charts provided or with miniatures simulating galactic conflict in the future. There are two levels of play in this game, one of which is strategic where players move vast distances across space. The other is tactical, where players fight opposing forces. This game can also be used with Starguard and Orilla which adds a higher degree of difficulty into the entire games system. Packaged in a plastic bag. McEwan Miniatures, Dept. CM, 380 D St., Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

for Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Wargaming in miniature. It covers such a wide period of history by giving general rules and allowing players to add their own specifics. There are special tables at the back of the book for the different periods covered. Rules are well written with many examples of play for explanatory purposes. Could be suggested for beginner if he has a friend who has some experience. \$5.00 retail. Zocchi Associates, Dept. CM, 7604 Newton Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532. See ad page 176.

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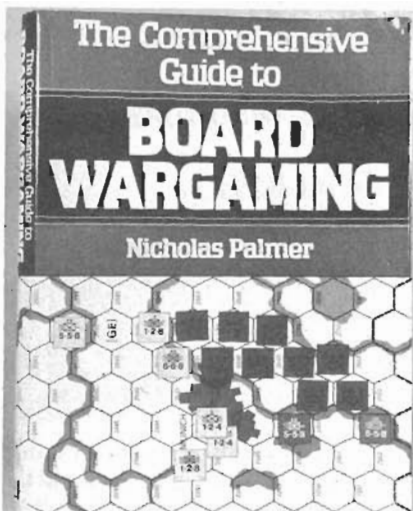
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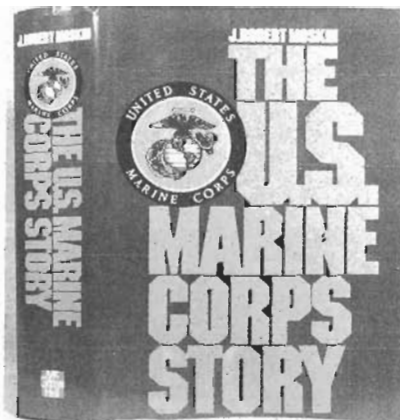
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Sternkrieg is a combination board/minature game simulating interstellar conflict sometime in the future. Players do not have to utilize miniatures but the option is there to use if they wish. Relatively easy to learn and a large number of players are allowed to participate simultaneously. **Konigsgarde** is a set of miniature rules that recreates Medieval warfare. They are on the tactical level where each figure used is the equivalent to one man. Game can be fairly complex and prior miniature experience helps. Both games contain many optional rules that can be employed adding variety to the game. Sternkrieg \$4.00 retail and Konigsgarde \$3.00 retail. Zocchi Associates, Dept. CM, 7604 Newton Dr., Biloxi, MS 39532. See ad page 176.

MILITARY MODEL DIST.

Grossdeutschland is a pictorial history of the Panzer Grenadier division of WWII. Book contains maps and short discussions of battles that they fought in as well as some Organizational tables of this unit through the war years. A fine reference book on this well known fighting unit. \$9.95 retail. Military Model Distributor, Dept. CM, 3461 East 10 Mile Road, Warren, MI 48091. See ad page 147.

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COMMAND STUDY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 169)

wooden stands of some kind. For the collectors field, it is normally a heavy base. The size of it will vary according to the number of figures that he is going to put on it and the size of the figure. The base is finished by the hobbyist by putting on terrain of some kind so as to depict a realistic scene of some kind.

For the wargamer, he will use different sizes of balsa wood. This will serve as movement stands for the troops on the wargaming table. Everything is scaled down to a specific unit size and the rules that are used inform the gamer exactly how many figures are to be put on a specific stand size. This is for the realism aspect of gaming as a certain type unit, of so many men, took up so much room on the field. Here again, just how much is used will depend on the size of the army collected by the hobbyist and the scale that he is gaming in.

FLASH—FLASH—FLASH—A recent offer has been brought to my attention that will aid you in the promotion of boardgaming in your store. Simulations Publications Inc., Dept. CM, 44 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010 has a "FREE" offer for retailers. What it consists of is a 16 page magazine entitled "Introduction to War-gaming" and their introductory boardgame "Strike Force". These can be handed out in your store free of charge to perspective customers to interest them in war-gaming.

The magazine contains background information to give the reader a brief insight and understanding of the hobby. Some of the articles within the magazine cover such items as the History of the Hobby, Basic Tactics, Glossary of Terms, Symbols Used, and a Basic Gaming Library. All of this information is extremely useful to the novice as it answers many questions he may have.

The game, "Strike Force", is very simple to learn and can be played in a short amount of time. At the present, it is about the best introductory game available. The rules can be read in under 15 minutes. There is a sample game

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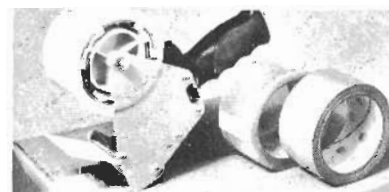
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